

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1322  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Joe Kent on the occasion of his retirement as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor our colleagues who in their years in elective office have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Representative Joe Kent is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 26 years as Representative of the 96th and 83rd House Districts in Memphis, serving his constituents with dedication, diligence and probity; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kent will be taking a much deserved retirement at the end of his elected term of office, having served as Representative of the 96th House District during the 91st and 92nd General Assemblies and the 83rd House District during the 93rd-103rd General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, born January 22, 1938 in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the son of James M. and Dorothy Roberson Joslin, Joe Kent attended primary and secondary schools in Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi; he attended the Northwest Mississippi Junior College from 1958-59 and Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis, from 1960-61; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kent served in the National Guard from 1959 until 1964, when he was honorably discharged; in 1961 he embarked upon a career in law enforcement with the Memphis Police Department, retiring as a Lieutenant in 1986; for the past forty years he has lived in East Memphis and has devoted his life to public service; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kent is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including charter membership in

the Brooks Gallery Decorative Arts Trust, a member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Epilepsy Foundation, a member of the Memphis Kidney Foundation, a member of the East Memphis Catholic Club, a member of the United Methodist Church, a member of the 1983-84 Leadership Memphis class, and President of the Memphis Police Association from 1975-77; and

WHEREAS, first elected to the Tennessee General Assembly in 1978, Joe Kent has represented a constituency in East Memphis and Germantown; in 1995 he played an important role in passing the most comprehensive anti-crime package ever written into law to address Tennessee's rising crime rate; he has also sponsored measures to provide seizure of the vehicles of repeat drunk drivers and assisted in the passage of the State's welfare-to-work program, Families First; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Police Officers Standard Training (POST) Commission, Representative Kent has worked to help law enforcement officers receive additional training to enhance their ability to meet the safety needs of Tennessee's communities; and

WHEREAS, during his long tenure as a State Representative, Joe Kent has served astutely on the House standing committees on Finance Ways and Means, State and Local Government, Calendar and Rules, and Ethics; he has served on the Council on Pensions and Insurance, served as Vice Chair of the Local Government Subcommittee and has been a member of the House Subcommittees on State Government and Budget; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kent exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he enjoys the love and support of his wife, the former Becky Hedrick, his sons Joseph Bryson and Kevin Michael, and his granddaughter Melanie; and

WHEREAS, long known for his friendly and affable manner and great wit, Joe Kent is loved and respected on both sides of the aisle and will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Joe Kent has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues in the House of Representatives, as well as the members of the Senate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we extend to our dear friend and colleague, Representative Joe Kent, a fond farewell, but not goodbye, and our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, every continued success in his future endeavors, and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.